

WHEREAS; invasive species can alter ecological relationships among native species and can affect ecosystem function, economic value of ecosystems, and human health; and

WHEREAS; humans have created conditions that support the aggressive invasion and domination of natural areas and bodies of water by invasive species by introducing exotic species, disrupting the natural processes and ecosystems by changing the environmental conditions, and by inadvertently spreading invasive species through carrying seeds on footwear or clothing, importing firewood, or moving watercraft from waterbody to waterbody without proper cleaning; and

WHEREAS; according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), about 42 percent of the species on the federal Threatened or Endangered Species Lists are at risk primarily because of invasive species; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin's agricultural lands are vital to the economic livelihood and health of folks across the state, yet invasive species threaten the productivity and economic viability of the state's agricultural lands by creating overwhelming competition with crops; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin's waters and wild lands draw countless tourists and recreational users to the state each year, while also helping to mitigate the influences of environmental changes, flooding, water pollution, and air pollution, yet invasive plants and animals threaten the state's waters and wild lands by crowding out and destroying native plants and animals, and by disrupting complex habitat systems that have evolved over millennia; and

WHEREAS; millions of dollars, both public and private, are spent each year on the control of invasive plant and animal species in Wisconsin's waters, wild lands, agricultural lands, and urban areas, and in 2022, state agencies joined with private partners in forming the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council, which conducts studies and provides recommendations to the DNR to control invasive species; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins the DNR, along with local businesses, conservation and recreational groups, community organizations, and dedicated advocates in taking action against the introduction and spread of invasive species;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim June 2023 as

INVASIVE SPECIES ACTION MONTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 31st day of May 2023.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State